

SHOT HIMSELF THROUGH HEAD

J. F. Pfetch Kills Himself in Washington Hotel.

CAUSE ILL HEALTH.

Doctors Gave Him No Relief and He
Put an End to Himself.

LEFT HERE SUNDAY MORNING

**Mr. Petch Came Here from Cleveland and
Has Been Engaged as Superintendent in**

He Was Un-
married.

Mr. J. F. Pritch, superintendent of construction for the Cleveland Construction Company, which company is building the electric line between here and Petersburg, shot himself in the head with suicidal intent, in his room, at the St. James Hotel, in Washington, Monday night about 2 o'clock and died yesterday afternoon at the Emergency Hospital in that city. Mr. Pritch left a letter in his room addressed to Mr. F. G. Freese, who is vice-president of the Richmond and Petersburg Electrical Railway Company, and was associated with him in his work here.

physician whom I consulted here concerning my health and the trouble with which I am suffering, gave me the same prescription as the doctor in Richmond, saying I would have to quit work and go to some health resort, and, as you know, a man in my position cannot do that. I am sorry I can't stay with you until the road is completed, but the pain in my head is intense. My wish is to

be cremated, and that there be no funeral."

Mr. Fretch left Richmond Sunday morning for Washington to consult a specialist concerning some catarrhal affection with which he had been a great sufferer for some time. The pain he suffered seemed to be at the base of the brain, and was constantly giving him trouble, particularly for the last month or more. The news of his act came here as a shock to those associated with him in the office, as never for a moment had they connected it with Mr. Fretch. He was a good man.

regular man in many ways silent, at times morose, and abrupt in his manners, but with it all was a great worker, energetic and pushing in his work, and by his company considered one of the ablest and most competent men in its employ, on account of his wide experience and practical knowledge of electrical and civil engineering.

CAME FROM CLEVELAND.

Mr. Petch came here last December from Cleveland, Ohio, giving up a position

tion there with E. I. Roberts & Co., a large engineering house in that city, and since that time he had been identified with the interest of the Cleveland Com-

struction Company in the building of the Petersburg line. He was a familiar figure along the line of the road. Appeared at various times before the councils of Richmond, Manchester and the Board of Supervisors of Chesterfield in matters pertaining to the line.

Little is known here concerning his relatives, other than that he has a sister.

ter-in-law residing in Niagara Falls and a niece, Miss Georga Pfetich, who was here with him for several months during the summer as stenographer for the company, with which her uncle was connected. She is said to have married recently but where she has made her home is not known.

home is not known. Mrs. John Pfetich in Niagara Falls, was wired yesterday evening by Mr. Frese of her brother's death, and upon her instructions arrangements for the departure of the remains are awaiting. Mr. Frese will

probably go to Washington to-day.
BORN IN GERMANY.
Mr. Pfetich boarded at No. 201 East Franklin Street, having previously kept

He was about thirty-seven years of age, was born in Germany, but came to America twenty-five years ago. In his earlier days he was associated as private secretary to Congressman Scott of Erie, Pa. Afterwards he went to California, was railroading, made a large

fortune in a short while, but in some way his interest became involved in litigation, and is said now to be tied up in the courts. He was an honorary member of the Persian Inventors' Academy, for his inventions in electrical appliances. A Mason of the thirty-second

Mr. Frese, who received the first news of Mr. Pfetich's death here at 1 o'clock, was in Washington yesterday morning on business, and spent an hour or more in the St. James Hotel, where the

tragically occurred, but heard nothing of the affair, and came on to Richmond thinking Mr. Pfetich was here, having returned from Washington Monday, as he had expected to do upon leaving Sunday.

There is no intimation here that the act was prompted by any other trouble than that of ill health.

RESIDENCE ROBBED.

Thieves Took Money and Four Gold Watches.

Some time Sunday night the residence of Mrs. M. J. West, 400 West 12th St., was robbed by three men. The thieves took \$100 in money and four gold watches. The owner of the residence is a well-known citizen of the city.

The rooms of the house were ransacked and the sum of \$300 and four gold watches belonging to various members of the family were taken.

No clues were left by the thieves, but the police are on the lookout.

Virginians Here.

Among the prominent Virginians re-

istered in the city are: Judge W. H. Homes, of Boydton; Mr. John C. Wynn, of Clifton Forge; Colonel Harry Hodges, of Norfolk, and Mr. J. B. Blanks, of Petersburg.